

The Medical Board of California has asked for the assistance of the Board of Psychology in making the following Notice available to the mental health professionals regulated by the board.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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NOTICE TO LICENSED HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS

The Medical Board of California (MBC), is extremely interested in advancing its mission of consumer protection. Recently, a nurse in a California hospital was quoted in a major newspaper article stating that she “knew (without naming anyone) of many physicians who deserved to have their licenses revoked by the MBC.” The context for this was within a story about a physician whose license was being revoked by the MBC. Such a statement is of concern to the Board, because we rely in part on peer review and input from allied health professionals to help us in doing our job of patient protection. Healthcare workers are in a uniquely qualified position of trust and obligation to report to regulatory agencies problems they see with other healthcare providers that lead to or could lead to patient harm.

Those "on the front line" who are in a position to recognize and act on this obligation should inform the MBC of physician misconduct of which they become aware. While we can take complaints anonymously, they are impossible to pursue if we cannot find witnesses to corroborate the allegations. The Board cannot guarantee your name will not surface, but Board staff will work with you to avoid that, if possible. You will be doing the right thing by your patients and your profession. The Board is deeply committed to the mission of consumer protection, and the proper licensing and regulation of physicians in California. It is the Board's hope you will work with us and your constituencies toward that end.

Please call our toll-free complaint line at (800) 633-2322, or download our complaint form from our Web site at www.caldocinfo.ca.gov or www.medbd.ca.gov. Thank you on behalf of the consumers of the state of California.